Economic Overview May 2024

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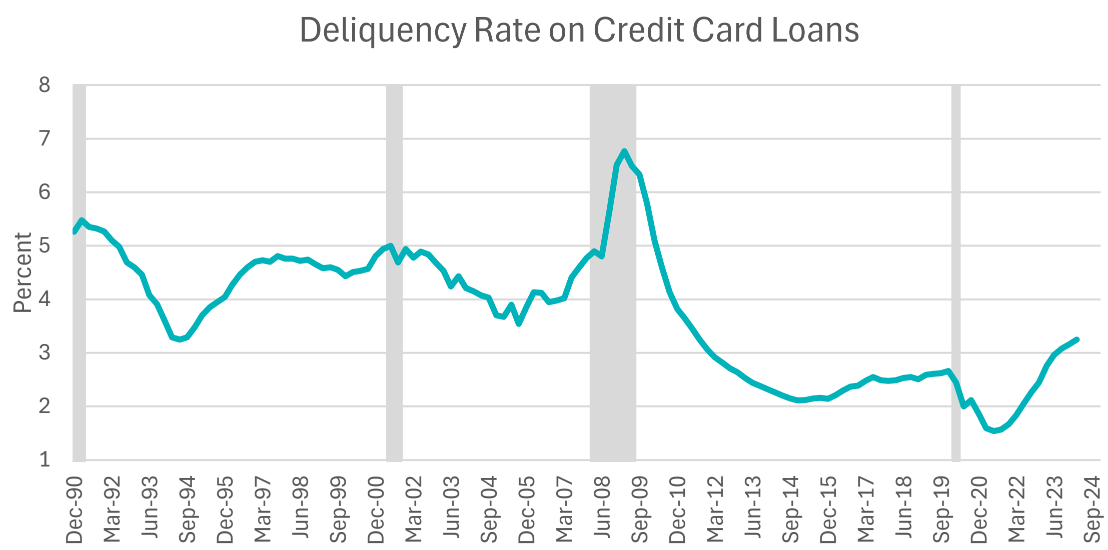
OBSERVATIONS

- More consumers are feeling the inflation pinch
- Declining full-time employment has dampened spending
- Low housing inventory has buoyed prices
- The inverted yield curve will probably be right...eventually

Delinquency Is Increasingly in the Cards for Maxed-Out Borrowers

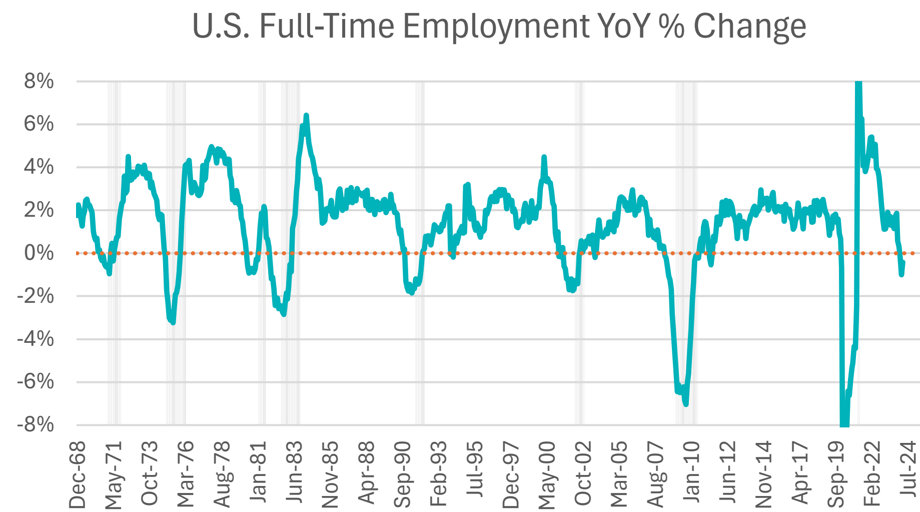
- Many major retailers are offering summer deals to entice inflation-weary shoppers as credit card delinquencies rise, especially for max-out borrowers.



SOURCE: FEDERAL RESERVE

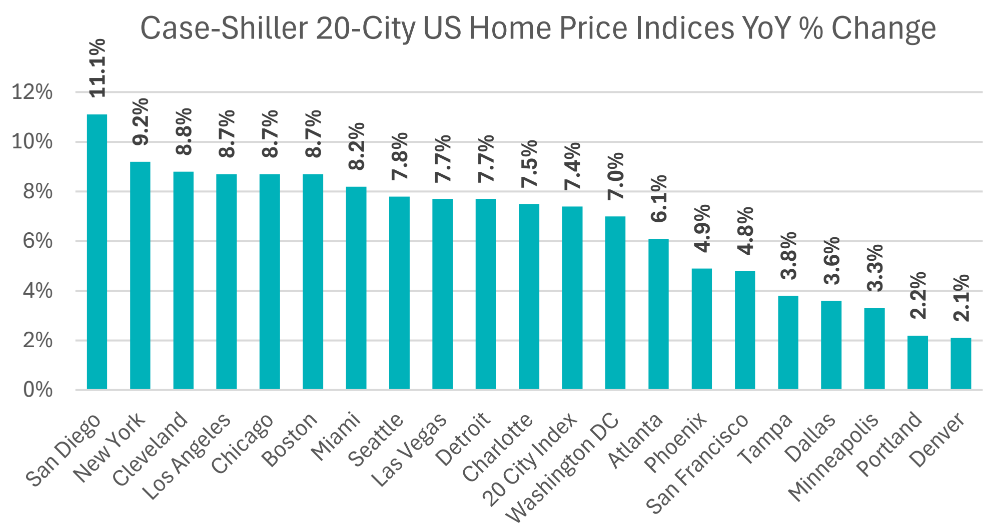
Falling Full-Time Jobs May Be Pointing to an Economic Slowdown

- Often is the past, declining full-time employment has been a precursor to an economic slowdown or a recession.
- Year-over-year employment for full-time workers has been negative the past three months.



SOURCE: BLOOMBERG, BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Home Prices Hit Another Record High in March



SOURCE: S&P CORELOGIC CASE-SHILLER

- Home prices in the 20 biggest U.S. metros hit another all-time high, as the housing market remains hampered by a low number of houses for sale.
- Home prices in these large markets were up 7.4% in the last 12 months ending in March, even under the burden of higher monthly mortgage payments for buyers.

Has the Inverted Yield Curve Lost its Predictive Luster?

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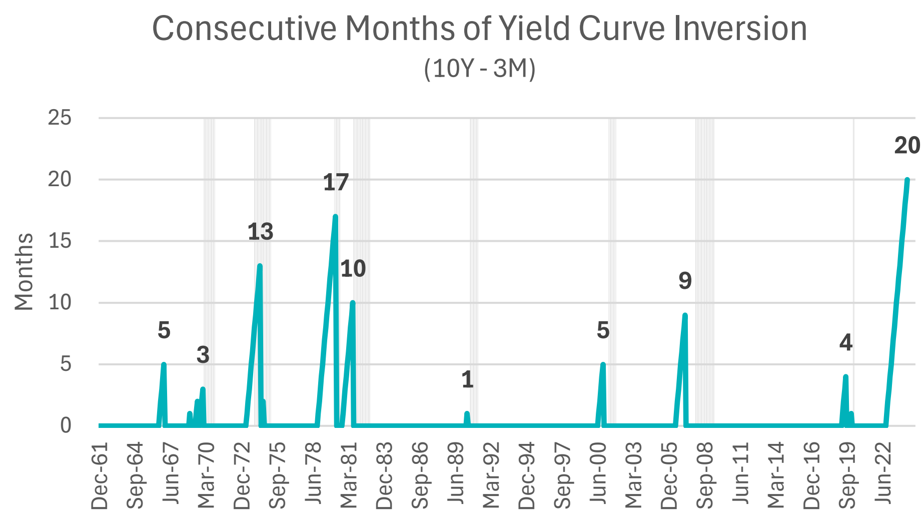
- The U.S. Treasury yield curve (10 year minus 3 month) has been inverted the longest on record (20 consecutive months).
- In the past, this inversion has preceded recessions. High consumer and federal government spending has helped keep the economy moving along, but we will be surprised if the yield curve will be wrong this cycle…it's just lagging.



SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

Takeaways

- The Federal Reserve has pushed out rate cuts the futures market was expecting by now. The market is now projecting about four .25% cuts over the next 12 months.
- Often in the past, this type of market setup has proven to be an opportune time to lock in longer maturities.

Disclosure

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